

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 7**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2002-009**  
**DATE: July 10, 2002      TIME: 5:30 p.m.**

TO: Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe Summer Storms - Severe thunderstorms have produced heavy rain, gusty winds and hail.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: On June 29, two young boys were injured when a tree was blown over and fell on them at Beaver State Park in Logan County.
3. DAMAGES: Flash flood watches and warnings were in effect for eastern North Dakota on July 10, 2002, after torrential rains caused overland and small stream flooding. Rainfall amounts ranged from 4.5 to 14 inches in northeastern North Dakota. The heavy rainfall flooded basements, caused sewer backup, washed out roads and damaged crops throughout eastern North Dakota. The resulting runoff will cause the Red River of the North and the Goose River to rise several feet above flood stage.

Forecasters for the National Weather Service (NWS) expect moderate flooding along the Red River as runoff from tributaries reaches the main stem. A July 10 forecast calls for the Red River to crest well above flood stage next week at East Grand Forks, Oslo and Drayton. In East Grand Forks, the river is expected to crest at 39 to 41 feet by Sunday, July 14. Flood stage at East Grand Forks is 28 feet; the level on July 10 was 22.9 feet. The river at Oslo will crest at 34 to 26 feet, five to seven feet above the 28-foot flood stage, on Monday, July 15. The level at Oslo measured 19.2 feet on July 10. Forecasters expect the river to crest at 37 to 39 feet at Drayton sometime after Wednesday, July 17. Flood stage is 32 feet. The level at Drayton measured 22.8 feet on July 10.

In Traill County, the Goose River at Hillsboro is forecasted to rise 6.9 feet within the next 24 hours to 11.1 feet by Thursday, July 11. Minor flooding occurs above the seven-foot flood stage, and moderate flooding at 13 feet.

On July 10, the N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT) issued the following information regarding changing road conditions: N.D. Highway 1 is closed from Pekin to Lakota between mileposts 145 and 162 due to water on the roadway. The southwest ramp at the Reynolds interchange on U. S. Interstate Highway 29 (I-29) is closed due to water on the road. Areas surrounding mileposts 123 and 127 on I-29 have water on the shoulder of the roadway. From mileposts 140-141, signs posting reduced speeds have been placed because of nearby water. Two miles south of Buxton at milepost 116, water is flowing over the southbound lanes; the driving lane is closed.

Following is a summary of storm activity by month, including July 9-10 flooding:

### **July Storm Information**

On July 5, severe storms damaged buildings and machinery on six farms west of Ashley in McIntosh County. A low-lined sheep shed was blown over, damaging a tractor cab and mower. Winds lifted the roof off a pole barn and a calf shelter was destroyed. Round bales were blown off stacks, trees were knocked down, grain hoppers were felled and shingles were blown off several roofs.

On the evening of July 9, a tornado destroyed a barn and knocked down power poles near Berlin, in LaMoure County. Building damages were also reported in the Berlin area. Seven inches of rainfall in the Berlin area caused flooding along Cottonwood Creek and destroyed crops.

Sargent County officials reported high winds toppled a radio tower and caused tree damage in Forman on the evening of July 9. Straight-line winds with speeds of between 70 to 80 mph were recorded. Power lines operated by the Ottertail Power Company were damaged. The town was without electricity for about one hour. Trees downed a Dickey Rural Communications telephone line, taking out service to a portion of Main Street and the Courthouse. Storm sewers were unable to keep up with inflow, resulting in minor street flooding in low-lying areas. A garage was destroyed on the north edge of Forman, and a small pole barn was blown down at a farmstead two miles north of the town. Gusty winds and hail caused crop damage. Minor street flooding occurred in the city of Gwinner.

In the city of Hillsboro in Traill County, lift stations were overwhelmed by excessive amounts of water when eight to 11 inches of rain fell on July 9-10. Up to six inches of rain fell within a two-hour period in Traill County. Several homes experienced basement flooding and sewer back up. Reports indicated six inches of rain caused street flooding in Mayville. Up to 14 inches of rain was reported in Buxton.

McIntosh County officials reported 2.5 inches of rain and up to golf ball size hail northeast of Ashley damaging crops and buildings on July 9-10. A funnel cloud was spotted northeast of Ashley. Heavy rainfall assisted Ashley firefighters who were battling a grass fire at the time of the storm.

Officials from Richland County Emergency Management reported thunderstorms on July 9-10 dropped up to four inches of rain causing extensive crop inundation and resulting in minor road damage.

A report from Grand Forks Emergency Management officials indicated up to four inches of rain fell from midnight to 7:00 a.m. on July 10. Early July 10, rainfall rates measured one-half to one inch per hour in the Northwood, Holmes and Thompson areas. Lift stations in the city of Reynolds failed to remove the necessary volume of water; consequently, some residents experienced sewer back up. An initial assessment indicates \$625,000 in damages. Seven rural homeowners reported approximately \$70,000 in damages. County Road 25, one mile east of Reynolds, is under water. Up to eight inches of rain fell in the Reynolds area. Culverts and road washouts occurred throughout the county; initial assessments indicate damages amounted to \$37,000.

In Foster County, rainfall amounts on July 9-10 ranged from 0.40 of one inch in the Carrington area to 2.8 inches in the Grace City area, where tree damage was reported.

On July 10, Devils Lake measured 1447.46 feet, and Stump Lake was at 1,413.51 feet.

### **June Storm Information**

Emergency Management officials from the Three Affiliated Tribes reported thunderstorms on June 8-9 caused widespread roof, siding, window, and carpet damage. Some mobile homes were moved off the foundation and one was completely destroyed. Basement seepage and flooding also occurred in many homes. In the Twin Buttes South Section, 15 homes were damaged while in the Twin Buttes West Segment, 10 homes were impacted. In the Mandaree West Segment, 14 homeowners reported problems. Damage to 12 homes was reported in the New Town North Segment. A garage was destroyed in the Four Bears Segment, and four homes were damaged in the White Shield East Segment. In the Parshall Northeast Segment, three homes were impacted and 12 telephone poles were blown over.

In some areas of Dickey County, a fast-moving thunderstorm on June 19 produced 0.25 inches to 1.5 inches of rain. Gusty winds damaged two center pivot irrigation systems, as well as a garage that was under construction. On June 22, local officials received reports of gusty winds and marble size hail in Elden and Kentner Townships. The city of Oakes received 4.5 inches of rain. Stormy conditions continued on June 23; local officials received reports of heavy rains and high winds.

Heavy rainfall, hail and tornadoes during the June 22-23 weekend resulted in flooded crops and property damage in McHenry County. Rainfall amounts ranged from 2.1 inches in the Towner area, five inches north of Voltaire and up to eight inches south of Velva. Four tornadoes were reported south of Velva on June 23. Shingles, windows, fencing and trees were damaged. A property owner told officials that his septic tank culvert collapsed and his driveway washed out.

Burleigh County officials reported a tornado touchdown 10 miles northwest of Bismarck on June 23.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) termed the rains on June 22-24 as a “major event” for the Devils Lake Basin. Officials from the N.D. State Water Commission (SWC) and Devils Lake Joint Water Resource Board reported only two other major summer flood events have occurred in the Devils Lake Basin; these prior events occurred in 1954 and 1993. During June 22-24 storms, the Starkweather Sub-Basin and Edmore Sub-Basin received as much as five inches of rain. For June, the total rainfall was nine inches, one-half the average annual precipitation. During June 22-24, five inches of rain were recorded in some areas of the Mauvais Sub-Basin. In addition, the sub-basin received nine inches north of Cando during June 9-10. Two weeks prior to the rainfall, all tributaries were nearly dry; however, as a result of recent storms, officials have noted dramatic increases in flow. On June 25, Channel A was flowing at 767 cubic feet per second (cfs) and Big Coulee was flowing at 474 cfs. The amount has contributed 2,500 acre-feet per day to Devils Lake. Also, the Starkweather and Edmore Coulees are flowing at high rates. On June 26, the Starkweather measured 505 cfs and the Edmore was at 344 cfs. Officials from the USGS, SWC and the NWS River Forecast Center believe the lake will rise to 1,447.5 feet without additional precipitation in the upper basin.

In southern Stutsman County, a severe thunderstorm on the evening of June 29 destroyed three DC transmission lines owned by Minnkota Power. These towers were located in Sinclair Township approximately nine miles south of Cleveland. Damage is estimated at \$100,000.

Pembina County officials reported an isolated high wind event on June 29 reached gusts up to 73 miles per hour (mph), which toppled a tree that fell onto a house located three miles west of Crystal on N.D. Highway 12. Winds also severely damaged a shelterbelt near the home. Tandem loads of debris were removed and a crane had to lift the tree from the house.

On June 29, high winds damaged several trees and resulting debris damaged some secondary power lines in the Eddy County community of New Rockford.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The Red River Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross Chapter has ordered 300 clean up kits and will be delivering 100 of those directly to Traill County residents.

The American Red Cross provided 25 cleanup kits to Pembina County residents experiencing problems with basement seepage.

In Traill County, residents were sandbagging homes.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Officials with the N.D. Division of Emergency Management placed the N.D. National Guard and Functional Coordinators on alert and notified staff at the Regional Operations Center (ROC) at Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

City of Hillsboro maintenance crew added extra pumps to assist the lift stations by moving greater volumes of water. The Hillsboro Fire Department also pumped water from city lift stations.

Both the Reynolds and Thompson Fire Departments are offering sandbagging assistance.

Officials from the city of Reynolds in Grand Forks County requested citizens to curtail water use in an attempt to alleviate the volume of water lift stations had to remove.

The Traill County Commission issued an emergency declaration on July 10 as a result of excessive rains.

LaMoure County road crews closed road locations where road washouts occurred.

In Sargent County, Forman public works crews removed debris and provided assistance to Ottertail Power.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No assistance is requested at this time.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Utility crews repaired damaged infrastructure.

9. OTHER: Appropriate state, local and private entity emergency operations plans and procedures have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director